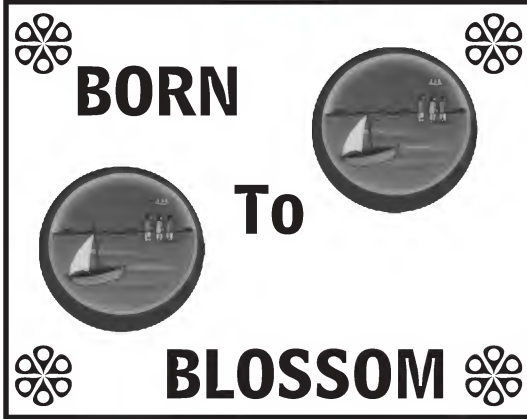


JAINAM JAYATI SHASANAM
LABDHI BAAL VAARTA Series

Part - 9



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PUBLISHERS NOTE

"LABDHI BAAL VAARTA" are wonderful short stories collected from various sources which were in different languages. We are grateful to all those authors. Specially Yashovarm Surijii, Muni Chandra Surijee and Shailesh Sagparia. Our appreciation to Poojya **Acharya Sri Raj-Yash Sooreeshwarjee M.S.** and his disciple Upadhyaya Vishrutyash Vijayaji Gani (Prof. M.S.), Satish Mardia from Chennai & Ahd. for Assisting in compiling and editing, and all the donors and printers for their monetary & physical support.

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FOREWORD

DOES RE-BIRTH EXIST ?

Now-A-Days Children Want to know Everything with Logic. If we tell them Anything to do, they will ask, why ? So, if we give them hundreds of Examples which happened with law of cause and effects like why Sitajee kidnapped by Ravan ? Why Draupadi Married with Five Husbands ? They will understand the matter and will do accordingly. So to bring them on the Right path it is the easiest way. What one gives that only one Receives. This is the Law of Nature. The western Authors also like arther c. Klarke and Dr. Brian weiss have given many examples which prove the existence of soul. Here the Lots of Examples are given of many historical characters with Refernce of the scriptures. (in Part 4) so if one wants to achieve good he will surely do good in this birth i.e. religion. I hope this book will surely make one to walk on the right path i.e. right faith, right knowledge and right conduct which is the way to salvation. **Thus in Book 1 to 6-264 stories are given. Now in Part 7-8-9 New 185 stories all being published.**

Dr. M. M. Begani, Bombay Hospital, Mumbai
12th July 2018

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-: Books available from:-
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THE AUTHOR

Acharyadev Shri. Rajyash Sooreeshwarjee Maharaj, exponent of discourses, visionary and promoter of renovation of various temples, the epitome of renunciation and great preacher is blessed by Shri. Labdhi Sooreeshwarjee M.S. & Shri. Vikram Sooreeshwarjee M.S., his Grand Guruji & Guruji respectively. Shri. Vikram Sooreeshwarjee, his Gurudev was very effective in attracting people towards the virtues of Jainism. He was a worshipper of 'BHAKTAMAR MAHASTOTRA', the practitioner of high standards of sadhana, and was a very simpleminded soul.

The Author-Shri Rajyash Sooreeshwarjee, a highly dedicated, courteous disciple of his Guru and lucky enough to serve, care, worship incessantly to such a great Guru. Being a great personality, his bright and exalted oratory attracts people at the very first instance. Infact, a few seconds in his auspicious company, confers profound happiness and satisfaction.

He is deeply involved in various rites, rituals, disciplines & yet very compassionate towards everyone. He has a heart, very simple like a child and delicate like a flower.

He has suggested many novice ways for the

propagation of Jainism. It is the outcome of his magnetic personality and devotion to God, that the renovation of temples at Bharuch Teerth, Kulpak Teerth, Uvasaggaharam Teerth, The Great Teerth of Banaras (Birth Kalyanak Place of Lord Parshwanath), Godi Parshwa-Padmavati Teerth at Prerna Teerth, Ahmedabad, jirnoddhar of Simandhar Swami and Jagvallabh Parshwanath Teerth at Vadachowta, Surat were made possible. With his blessings, the following penances were also undertaken,- * Fasting by 237 people for one month continuously (MASAKSHAMAN) and Fasting by 1008 people for 3 days (TELA) at Chennai.

* 360 people undertook the SIDDHITAP at Bangalore.

He organised JAINFAIR at Chennai, in 1999 which was an epoch making event. His dedication, devotion and involvement for the event are beyond words of appreciation. Jirnoddhar of Vanachara Teerth near Baroda, and many new Teerths are being established under the Nishra and guidelines of Shri. Rajyash Soreeshwarjee Maharaj both in India and abroad. For Example - Navkar Dham at Jivapur -Pallitana in India and Sankheshwar Parshwnath temple of Richmand - USA.

- Upadhyaya Vishrutyash Vijaya Gani
Dt. 30.7.2018 Palitana

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01. Stop Finding Faults In Others

This is an incident of the life of a Jain monk named Mulchandji *Maharaj Saaheb*.

Once, after answering nature's call, he washed his feet, taking care to use water judiciously. He even spread the water on the ground with his feet so that the ground would dry quickly. A Jain householder, who lived opposite the monastery, was watching him. He came to the monastery and told Mulchandji *Maharaj Saaheb* that he was a true monk because he had used so less water whereas he had seen another monk use up all the water filled in his vessel.



Mulchandji *Maharaj Saaheb* understood that the householder liked to find faults in others which is a great sin and he knew that it is equally sinful to listen to and support such criticism. He tactfully told the fault finder, "That Jain monk must have been a Brahmin in his previous birth so he is so particular about cleanliness and I must have been a miser so I

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used less water. The fault-finder was lost for words.

MORAL : Lending ear to fault finders supplies fuel to their activity. Do not encourage them by your participation.

02. An Empathetic Soul

Leonardo da Vinci, the famous Italian painter of 'Mona Lisa' had a very empathetic soul. Once when he was travelling, he was passing by a field and he stopped at the farmer's cottage to quench his thirst. There he was pained by the sight of a bird inside a cage. He bought the bird and set it free.



The farmer asked him why he had done so, when he had spent money on it. He could have kept the bird for himself or sold it for a profit. Leonardo said that the bird had flown away chirping happily since it had got back its freedom and that was worth more than any amount of money.

MORAL : The first condition of entering the religious and spiritual world is empathy and compassion. It is

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also the first and foremost characteristic of being human.

03. Shape Your Children's Lives

Visanji Thakkar had become wealthy by doing business of narcotic drugs in Ahmedabad and Ghogha. His conscience used to always prick him. He was always fearful that he would have to pay one day for his evil deed and his life would be ruined. He decided to give up the business and renounce the world. He wanted to follow the religious path and absolve his sins. He discussed about this with his wife. His wife was a devout religionist. She supported his decision, but she had a query. She asked him what kind of education she should give their three-year-old son, Narayan and what profession he wanted him to pursue when he grew up. Visanji instructed her, "Give Narayan such education that he completely imbibes our Indian culture and values. Make him a literateur who brings a wind of change with his writings, who transforms a

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devil into saint and a man into saviour. He should be able to earn his living from his writing so that he does not have to do any business."

Easier said than done. However, the strong-willed lady shaped the personality and the future of her son exactly as her husband wanted. Narayan became a virtuous literateur. He also went to Haridwar to take special training from his father who had become a learned scholar. He became a well-known writer who inspired social reforms.

MORAL : Parents should become good role models for their children and imbibe good values and principles in them.

04. Respect Your Teacher's Criticism

Avnindranath Tagore, the brother of Rabindranath Tagore, was a renowned artist and many students used to come to learn from him. Once, Nandlal Bose showed his painting to Avnindranath who flung it in disgust and criticised, "Are you not ashamed to make such rubbish paintings ? Do not show me your face." Nandlal left

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in tears.

Rabindranath Tagore who was present at the time asked, "Big brother, Nandlal had made a good painting. Why did you reprimand him so hard ?"

Avnindranath replied, " Nandlal has the talent to become a better painter than me. If I praise him, then he will not progress. Every time I criticise him, he makes a better painting than before. You just wait and watch, this time too he will make a better one."

Nandlal made Ajanta style of paintings which are considered to be one of the best work of art even today and they fetch lakhs of rupees.



MORAL : A student who cannot take criticism loses the ability to learn and his progress stops. A student must accept his teacher completely and look up to him.

05. For Protection Of Holy Pilgrimage Centre

Emperor Mohammed was a fanatic. He had

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undertaken an aggressive campaign to demolish temples and construct mosques in their place. He marched with a large army towards Shree Shatrunjay Giriraj - the holy pilgrimage centre of Jains. Devout Jains were shaken by this terrible news. It was impossible to match Mohammed's military strength. The only way to stop Mohammed was either to outsmart him or be prepared to sacrifice lives. The courageous men of the Barot community stepped forth under the leadership of Dadu Barot.

When Mohammed reached '*Gheti ni paag*', Dadu Barot and his men were already there. When Mohammed did not heed Dadu plea to go back, Dadu stabbed himself with his own dagger. The stone-hearted Mohammed commanded his General, Khudasingh Khan to march ahead. At once, another young Barot, Pratapsingh beheaded himself with his own sword. Mohammed became agitated.



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He could not understand why the Barots were mindlessly killing themselves. Just then, about one hundred Barots rushed forward. Their clothes were smeared with oil. One of them tore apart his abdomen and flung his intestines which got wrapped around the General's neck like a serpent. The General shuddered and refused to go ahead. He advised Mohammed to turn back. The General feared that the Barots would collectively immolate themselves at any moment.



Finally, Mohammed had to turn back. The Jain congregation gave several privileges to the Barots for the sacrifices they had made for protecting Shree Shatrunjay Giriraj. Their future generations still enjoy these privileges. Our heads bow in honour of these selfless and courageous men.

MORAL : We need such selfless and courageous people to uphold and protect the legacy and dignity of Jainism.

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06. Love And Trust

About three hundred years ago, there lived a Jain poet named Banarasidas. One night, he woke up just when a thief was stealing from his house. To the amazement of the thief, instead of preventing him from stealing, Banarasidas gave him a sheet to make a bundle of the booty so that he could carry it easily.

After reaching home, the thief narrated the incident to his mother who felt that he had committed a big sin by stealing from a generous and devout religionist. She told him to go back and seek forgiveness. The thief fell at Banarasidas' feet and resolved to never steal again.

"Then how will you earn your living ?" asked Banarasidas.

"By farming," replied the thief. Banarasidas hired him to manage his own farm. Thus, a thief was transformed into an honest man.



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MORAL : It is possible to change a person by giving love and trust.

07. Value Our Shrut Gyaan

Many Chinese scholars have visited India in ancient times. One of them was Hieun Tsang. Itsing came about fifty years after him. He studied at the world renowned **Nalanda University** for ten years and translated many Indian religious books. He was fascinated by the Indian culture. He was in India for about fifteen years.

About three hundred years later, Fa Hein came to India with six companions to obtain a religious book called '*Vinay Pitak*'. They had to face many difficulties like snowstorms and difficult roads on their journey from China to Peshawar. One companion died and three other lost their courage and decided to return to China. Fa Hein and the remaining two companions crossed a very big barren and desolate desert and finally, they managed to reach Mathura.

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Fa Hein was awestruck by the magnificent palace of *Samrat Ashok*, the splendour and the art and architecture in Pataliputra.

Fa Hein has written in his travelogue, "Bharat is truly blessed with exceptional tradition, culture and moral values. There is a total ban on liquor. The education system is brilliant. The members of the royal family and the commoners study in the same institute without any discrimination. Bharat is superior to China in several aspects."

After learning that foreigners used to undertake life threatening risks to obtain our religious knowledge, what are we prepared to do in order to preserve our religious scriptures? Just like we go to the *Derasar* (temple) every day, shouldn't we start going to our *Gyaan mandir* (library of religious scriptures) also to worship our religious scriptures and to study them? In ancient times, there was a tradition to do '*Chaityavandan*' in



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Gyaan mandir.

MORAL : Devoutly worship and study our *Shrut Gyaan* (knowledge of religious scriptures) with dedication.

08. The Power to Transform

Girishbhai, the trustee of Mumbai Godijee Temple Trust, was with his friend Hasan Ali. They read on a board outside the Godijee monastery that '*Yugdivakar*' *Poojya Acharya Bhagwant Shree Dharmasuri Maharaj Saaheb* was staying in the monastery. Girishbhai decided to go and pay obeisance to Dharmasuriji. Hasan Ali also went with him.

No sooner did Dharmasuriji raise his hand to give his blessings, than Hasan Ali - an expert palmologist - was fascinated by the lines of his palm. He sought *Poojyashree's* permission to study his palm. *Poojyashree* agreed upon the condition that Hasan Ali should abstain from non-vegetarian food for the rest of his life. Although it was a difficult condition, he accepted it.

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Hasan Ali said that *Poojyashree's* palm lines were unique. He started meeting *Poojyashree* often. When he heard about *Poojyashree's kaaldharma* (journey of the soul to the next realm), he observed



a fast. He walked for nine hours along with *Poojyashree's palkhi* (palanquin).

Our '*Geetarth*' (well-versed in Jain scriptures) Jain ascetics could bring even non-Jains on the right path. The Jain *Guru Bhagwants* command awe and reverence by virtue of their vast knowledge and rigorous practice of the principles.

MORAL : Great souls have the power to transform non-vegetarians into vegetarian by their virtues.

09. Trustee Of People's Money

Krishnavadan Joshi was the Mayor of Ahmedabad. He was a very simple and honest man. Once, when he had gone out of town, his wife fell ill. Relatives took her to the Civil Hospital where,

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being the Mayor's wife, she was admitted in the special ward. When Krishnavadanji returned, he told the doctor to shift his wife to the general ward because he could not afford the charges of the special room.

When he fell ill, he also got admitted in the general ward. People queued up to visit him in the hospital. The staff of the hospital was surprised to learn that he was the Mayor and could have taken free treatment in the special ward but he had not taken advantage of his post.



MORAL : An ideal politician is a trustee of the people's money -- one who uses the taxes paid by the people for the welfare of the people and not for his personal luxuries.

10. Punjab Kesari

In 1964, some people of Gujranwala were questioning the authenticity of the religious books

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written by Atmaramji *Maharaj*. Muni Vallabhvijayji reached Gujranwala to deal with the problem. His presence was enough to silence the accusers. Nobody came forth to debate on this matter.

In another incident, British spies were secretly monitoring the activities of Vallabhsuriji who had become an *Acharya* by then. The British suspected him to be a revolutionary in disguise. The spies became his devotees after seeing that non-violence was woven intricately in every moment of his life.



Once, *Acharya* Vallabhsuriji inspired Motilal Nehru to give up his habit of smoking. He told Motilalji to first free himself from his harmful addiction and then work for the freedom of the country. Acharyaji also said that cigarettes were manufactured by the British and as long as he was using their product, he would not be able to cultivate the necessary aggression against them.

MORAL : Acharya Vallabhsuriji deservedly earned

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the title of '*Punjab Kesari*'. Real freedom is freeing oneself from one's bad karma.

11. We Can Live After Death

A rich man sent invitations to his relatives and friends to come for the burial of his car which was made of gold and precious stones. The friend said that no worldly possessions go with a dead person so he should give the car to someone who would use it. The rich man then clarified that the purpose of the burial was to make every one understand that instead of letting our precious organs burn away we should donate them to people who need them to live.

MORAL : Not only possessions, we must donate even body parts after death. Only ten percent of the people who require organ transplant get it and the rest die. Let us save and enrich lives by donating our body organs.

12. Respect Sentiments

This was an incident during British Raj in India.

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The Commissioner of Agra, Vincent Smith visited Itawa. The Hindu Collector of Itawa ordered that beef should be cooked for the Commissioner because he wanted to please him. However, the Commissioner got very angry. He reprimanded the Collector for not caring about the sentiments of the crores of Hindus who held the cow sacred and worshipped it. The Commissioner said that whenever he was in India, he never ate beef for that very reason.



MORAL : India is a country of diverse religions. The foreign officer inspires us not to hurt the sentiments of any religion.

13. Fundamental Right to Equality

Lenin was a communist and served as the Head of Russia for many years. Once, he went for a haircut. He had to wait because there was a long queue at the barber's. Someone recognised him

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and told him to go first. However, Lenin refused saying that everyone was equal and everyone's time was equally precious. He did not want to encroach upon anyone's rights.

MORAL : An arrogant person will take advantage of his position and authority. But the person who believes in the fundamental law of equality will treat all the beings with fairness.

14. For Better Or Worse

Dadabhai Navroji's wife Gulshan was illiterate whereas Dadabhai was well-educated. He was so intelligent that he put even foreigners in awe. His parents advised him to remarry a girl who could match his educational qualifications and interact with his foreign guests. Dadabhai refused to abandon his wife. He argued that if he ever suffered from any physical or mental defect, then his wife would never abandon him. He said that marriage was a lifelong bond for better or



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worse.

MORAL : Nobody is perfect. Accept your life partner with his or her faults.

15. Save Water

Sabarmati Ashram, where Mahatma Gandhi lived, was on a river bank. Every morning Gandhiji would use some river water to brush his teeth. An observer remarked that Gandhiji was being too miserly in using water. Generally, people would use eight to ten times more water than he did.

Gandhiji replied that rivers are national property. Their water should be used judiciously so that the rivers could supply water to all the places they pass in their course.

MORAL : Today, we are facing water scarcity due to wastage. 'Water is Life' - It is important that they do not remain as golden words on a banner but become a strong belief so that people strive to conserve water.



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16. Be Positive And Happy Always !

The famous Russian writer, Maxim Gorky's childhood was very troubled. His alcoholic father used to abuse Gorky's mother every day. He removed Gorky from school and made him do a job at the shop of a dealer of old newspapers, books and magazines.



Gorky deeply wished to get education. He began to read the books and magazines in the shop to quench his thirst of knowledge. Gradually, reading led to writing. His friends liked the story he wrote. Gorky had to publish the story at his own cost. Many writers encouraged him to keep writing and polish his skill.

Finally, he gained worldwide fame with his novel 'The Mother'.

MORAL : Many people get put off by unfavourable circumstances and give up. Be in a positive and



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happy frame of mind in all circumstances.

17. Payment For Sins

Alexander had the ambition of conquering the whole world. Desires are the root cause of sorrow. They do not let you rest peacefully.

Alexander already had a kingdom, but it seemed too small to him. He started preparing to fulfil his ambition. He began to equip his army with arms and armaments. He began to recruit more soldiers. The army began special training. Alexander craved to be famous and could not be dissuaded.



Several bloody wars were waged. But it is true that killing of innocent people never goes unpunished. Their curses do not let the perpetrator rest in peace.

Alexander died very painfully at the young age of thirty-two. He was able to take neither his fame nor his wealth with him.

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MORAL : If tears and blood of innocent people are the foundation of one's success, then one will have to pay for it in this world or the other.

18. Service To Mankind

Shyam Babu was a conductor in Kolkata. His earnings were minimal. He used his knowledge of indigenous medicine to cure pure and needy people of their ailments. He would also buy milk and fruits for them. As more and more people flocked to him, he started reporting late for his job. Eventually, he lost his job. He was not bothered about his own livelihood. Now, he dedicated all his time to his social welfare work. He used his provident fund savings for the poor. He made almost twenty-five thousand beggars self-reliant.

MORAL : Shyam Babu is a beacon who shows us the path of service to humanity.

19. What To Ask God For?

Once, a king decided to pay a surprise visit to the prison. He ordered that all the prisoners should

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be brought to the hall.

The king announced that, "Today I am happy. So, I will resolve one complaint of each person. Tell me your complaints."

The king started resolving the complaints of the prisoners one by one. He ordered the prison staff to provide a mosquito net to the prisoner who was troubled by mosquitoes, a fan to the prisoner who was feeling hot, a bathroom to another and so on.

The last prisoner was released from the prison when he complained that he was uncomfortable there. The other prisoners realised that if they had made the same complaint, then they would have been free of all the problems at one go. Similarly, instead of asking for materialistic things from God, if we ask for salvation, then we can be free of all our worldly problems.

MORAL : Ask God for the right things. God can give us much more than what we can think of.



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20. Do Not Be Awestruck

This incident is of Kheda District, Gujarat. A traffic policeman named Vaje Singh Vaghji chased and intercepted the car of a rich woman who had jumped the red signal. The woman arrogantly said that her husband was the Mayor, her brother was the member of *Vidhan Sabha* (Legislative Assembly) and her brother-in-law was a judge.

However Vaje Singh was not at all awestruck by her power of influence. The woman had to pay the fine.

Vaje Singh Vaghji was a man of iron will who had taken up many challenges in his life. In his school days, his classmates used to make fun of his lean body. He responded to this by winning a race at District level. He also worked as a teacher for a while and won the Best Teacher Award.

MORAL : Do not be affected by criticism. Do not be influenced or awestruck by external forces. Follow your own conscience.



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21. Apply What You Learn

A poor Brahmin named Padmanabh earned his living by giving discourses on religious scriptures.

Once he read that charity of knowledge is the best kind of charity. The knowledge attained by you should be imbibed in a deserving person. It is wrong to sell knowledge.

Padmanabh decided at once that would donate the fees received for his discourses to needy libraries and students. He started cutting wood for his livelihood.

MORAL : The moment you learn and understand what is right, put it into practice.

22. Lesson Of Loyalty

This is a true incident. A couple bought a pet dog to overcome their misery of being childless. The dog brought cheer into the house. Time passed. It so happened that the wife gave birth to a child. The wife's attitude towards the dog underwent a change now.

The dog, Sweetu, became a good companion

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for the child. One day, Sweetu rushed into the kitchen and forcibly pulled his mistress towards the child's room. She saw that her child was panting hard for breath. The child was



rushed to the hospital in the nick of time and his life was saved because of Sweetu. Sweetu's mistress regretted that she had thought of giving away Sweetu when she had a child.

MORAL : A dumb animal also repays love with loyalty. In exchange of the bread given by its master, it gives its lifelong loyalty. A dog can also teach us good values.

23. Stay Away From Temptations

A rich man once offered bags full of money to Sant Mathuradas and sought his blessings.

The saint said, "Saints always give their blessings for noble work but never for dishonest and sinful work. So, please take away this garbage."

When the rich man urged, the saint asked,

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"Would you like it if someone threw rubbish on the velvet carpet spread in your house?" The rich man shook his head.

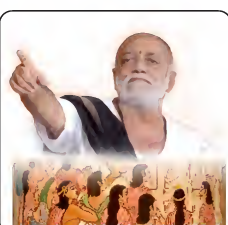
The saint spoke emphatically, "I have removed all impurities from my heart so that God may dwell in it. I do not want you to malign my heart with your dirt." The rich man left with his money.

MORAL : Never attempt to tempt ascetics and saints with material wealth.

24. The Secret of a Calm Mind

During the Second World War, German fighter planes were constantly invading England. The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill was busy every day for about twenty hours in administrative work and meetings regarding war plans.

One day, Sir Averberry saw Churchill painting with complete concentration and there was no trace of stress or anxiety on his face. Averberry was



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surprised that Churchill was devoting the little time that he got for rest to painting. Churchill explained that painting was his hobby. He derived pleasure from it and felt a renewed sense of vigour when he held the paint brush in his hand.

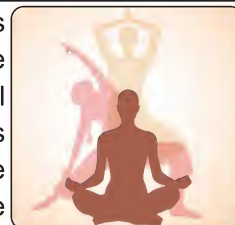
Averberry said that he was constantly plagued by fear of invasion and the outcome of the war. He wondered how Churchill could remain so calm.

Churchill said that the secret of his calm mind was to 'Hope for the best but be prepared for the worst.'

MORAL : If we make Churchill's secret the philosophy of our life as well, then we can also be free of stress and anxiety.

25. God Also Makes Films

The expert filmmakers of the world had gathered for a conference to discuss the art of filmmaking. The filmmakers were highlighting the



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good points of the films of their country.

The European filmmakers said, "Our method of filmmaking is ideal. We know the value of time so our films of just two hours' duration impart as much knowledge as could be gained in two months."

Likewise, their American counterparts boasted of teaching two years worth of knowledge in one and a half hours and the Chinese boasted of conveying twenty years worth of knowledge in only twenty minutes.

A waiter who was listening to this discussion remarked, "My God is the greatest filmmaker. He makes only one-minute films. A person lying on his deathbed sees his entire life in this film."

MORAL : When our life ends, we will also have to see this film. It is upon us whether we want to see a horror film or a happy film.

26. An Easy Solution To Escape Death

A king was so scared of death that it prevented him from enjoying his wealth and splendour. He was ready to pay any price to evade death.

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One person suggested that the king should keep the best doctor in his service who could provide him with medical treatment promptly if ever the need arose. Another person suggested that he should fortify his kingdom and keep only one entrance where he should keep his entire army on guard to deal with enemy attacks. The king implemented both the suggestions but could not yet shed his fear of death.

A saint came to know about the king's fear. He advised the king, "The best way to become immortal is to live on in other people's heart and for that you must use your wealth for benevolent deeds."

MORAL : We can defeat death by occupying place in people's heart by using our wealth, talent and skill to help them.

27. The Biggest Fool

A king had appointed a representative of every caste in his administrative council. Someone told the king that he had not appointed any representative of the fools.

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The king's soldiers caught hold of a fool and brought him to the court. The king appointed the fool and gave him an identity card to be worn around his neck whenever he was called to the court. The king told the fool that he would be dismissed from his job as soon as a bigger fool than he was found.

Days passed. The king was on his deathbed. When the fool came, he wanted to know why so many people were visiting the king. The king explained that he was going on a very long journey from which he would never return. The fool first asked whether he was taking his family, his wealth and his courtiers with him. The king refused. The fool then asked if he had made full preparations for his eternal journey, to which the king replied no.

The fool said, "Well, in that case you are a bigger fool than I and I give my job and identity card to you."

MORAL : Are we also fools like the king ? If not, then



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let us prepare for our eternal journey.

28. Can A Jain Drink Alcohol ?

When a European Airline was initially launched, a Jain gentleman was travelling in the first class section. An air hostess approached him with a complimentary drink. This was an alcoholic drink, so the man politely refused.

The air hostess returned but this time brought the drink on a platter, designed to appeal and impress. However, the Jain man again politely refused, explaining he did not drink alcohol.



The air hostess was concerned and informed the manager. The manager approached the man with another platter, now designed with flowers. He questioned, "Is there something wrong with our service ? Please enjoy the drink. It is a complimentary offer."

The man replied, "I am a Jain and I do not drink

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alcohol. The manager still insisted that the man take the drink. Then, the Jain proposed that the manager should give the drink to the pilot first. The manager stated, "How can the pilot drink alcohol ? He is on duty ! And if he drinks there are all chances for the plane to crash."

The Jain passenger replied with tears in his eyes, "I am a Jain and I am always on duty to protect my faith and if I drink alcohol I will crash my whole life hereafter. I AM 100% ON DUTY!"

MORAL : One Who is aware is always well protected.

29. Do Not Mourn

This is the story of a father who loved his eight-year-old son very much. Fate struck. The son drowned in a river and the father went mad with grief. Living without his son was like living without breath. He would cry all day long.

Once the father saw a dream in which he saw himself in God's court. God was sitting on a throne. He was surrounded by children who were like

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angels. All the children were smiling and holding a lighted lamp in their hands, except for one child whom he recognised as his son.



His son told him that he was not smiling because every time he lit his lamp it got extinguished by his father's tears. The father's dream ended. After a long time, he had a smile on his face instead of tears and he went out to meet his friends.

MORAL : Life is a journey in which we have to bid farewell to our known people and welcome new people . If we keep mourning the farewells, then how can we welcome the new ?

30. The Art Of Dying

A young man named Ramniklal, resident of Keshod, Gujarat, was in the last stage of intestinal cancer. His wife, Alpa was constantly by his side.

Soon the fated day arrived. Alpa was reading a chapter of *Shree Bhagwada Gita* by Ramniklal's

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bedside. Ramniklal was a devotee of *Shreenathji*. So, Alpa started showing him glimpses of *Shreenathji's 'Eight Sama'*. Then Alpa told him to chant God's name and imagine that he was taking a dip in the holy Ganga. The experience became so real for Ramniklal that he started shivering as if he was in cold water and he asked for a blanket. Next, she told him to imagine that he was at the holy *Giriraj*.

When Alpa saw that Ramniklal was breathing with difficulty, she gathered the family members. All started crying, except Alpa. She calmly put the holy water of River Yamuna in his mouth. Surprisingly, Ramniklal swallowed the water instead of vomiting it, as he had on previous occasions. Then, according to his wish, he was given a bath. When he was laid again on his bed, Alpa began to read the 12th and 15th chapters of *Shree Bhagwad Gita*. Ramniklal's breathing slowed gradually and finally stopped.



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MORAL : This incident teaches us the art of dying.

31. The Biggest Folly Of Mankind

Once, the astronomers of the world announced that a gigantic planet had strayed from its orbit and within thirty days it would fall on Earth and destroy it. The announcement spread panic and chaos. A red planet was detected coming closer and closer to Earth. So, there was no doubt in people's mind regarding the announcement.

The knowledge of inevitable death produced remarkable effects. A couple withdrew its application of divorce and decided to spend the last days happily together. The debtors decided to settle their overlong dues while the creditors decided to forego the dues. Broken friendships were renewed. Parents were brought home from old age homes. The entire world miraculously became loving, peaceful and moralistic.

After a few days, the astronomers announced that



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the danger had averted because the planet had changed its path. Everyone rejoiced. A change came over the world once again. Divorces were filed again, the creditors hounded the defaulters, friends turned into foes and parents were sent back to old age homes.

MORAL : We are ready to make compromises only when death looms over us. Is death more important than life ?

32. Strategy

The commander of **Napoleon** Bonaparte's army anxiously rushed into Napoleon's tent and informed him that their enemy had launched a surprise attack for which the commander had not prepared a strategy since he had not expected it.

Napoleon told him to take down map number eighteen from the wall which had the strategy for countering such an attack. Napoleon had thought of all the moves the enemy might



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make and had prepared a strategy for each move.

MORAL : Always be prepared for your enemy. Your real enemies are your worldly desires, attachments and negativity. God has given us the strategies to defeat them. Use those strategies constantly in order to win.

33. Noble Mind

Rafi Ahmed Kidwai was very compassionate. A man once fell at his feet and cried that he was in need of money for his daughter's wedding. Rafi Ahmed was moved by his story and gave him five hundred rupees. However, he felt that the amount was too small for the man's need so he sent the man with a recommendation letter to his rich friend. No sooner did the man see Rafi Ahmed's friend, than he took to his heels. Rafi's friend also recognised him. The man had fabricated a sob story and had extracted money from Rafi's friend as well a few days before. When he told this to



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Rafi, he said, "The man may be a thug but he is definitely needy, otherwise he would not have resorted to such methods. May God help him !"

Several years passed. Once, Rafi and his friend were passing by a hotel. A man in the hotel called out to them. He was the thug. He fell at their feet and asked for forgiveness. He said that Rafi's money had performed a miracle. It had transformed him. His mind no longer thought of thuggery. He had the noble thought of setting up a tea stall with the money. Honesty, hard work and good luck had finally made him the owner of that hotel. He asked Rafi to bless him that he would never do any wrong deed in his life.

MORAL : A person who inspires you to have a noble mind is far greater than a person who gives you money

34. Ramayan in Nepalese

A young Nepalese man named Bhanubhakt became a graduate but could not get a job since he was neither influential nor he could afford to give a

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bribe.

One day, he saw an old man doing labour work. He learnt that the man had no family and he earned enough for his living. Nonetheless, he was doing the labour work to collect money for digging a well in the village. Bhanubhakt felt inspired to do some selfless deed for the benefit of the society.

He translated '**Ramcharit Manas**' authored by Sant Tulsidas into Nepalese which benefits even today the Nepalese devotees of Shree Ram.

MORAL : Let us rise above our selfish motives and do some beneficial deed for mankind.

35. Reside In Your Soul

Sant Ribhu was teaching his student Nidaadh about the soul. He taught him the difference between body and soul. After completing his studies, Nidaadh went back to his native town where he started earning his livelihood by performing religious rites and rituals. His financial status started improving.

Once Sant Ribhu came to Nidaadh's native

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town. The saint disguised himself as a villager because he wanted to test his disciple. He stood beside Nidaadh when he was watching the king's procession pass by. The saint asked him, "What is this? Why is the band playing music?" Nidaadh replied, "What a fool you are! Don't you know that it is the king's procession?"

The saint asked, "Who is a king?" Nidaadh retorted, "The one who is riding the elephant."

The saint then asked, "Who is an elephant?" Nidaadh explained, "The one who is below is the elephant and the one above is the king."

"What does above and below mean?" the saint interrogated. Nidaadh was irked by these stupid questions. He forced the saint to bend and climbed on his back. Then Nidaadh said, "You are the elephant and I am the king."

Unperturbed by Nidaadh's behaviour, the saint continued, "Who am I? Who are you?" Nidaadh felt a sense of awakening now. He



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remembered his teacher's words -- 'I' means soul. Nothing belongs to the soul. Nidaadh thought that an illiterate villager would never ask such questions. He looked closely at the villager and recognised him. He fell at his teacher's feet and said, "*Gurudev!* I had forgotten the knowledge given by you. I am grateful that you have awakened me. Now my sole goal will be emancipation of my soul. Now my duty is to detach from everything and reside in my soul." Sant Ribhu felt contented and blessed Nidaadh.

MORAL : Let us introspect on our soul daily.

36. Real Freedom

Once Ramkrishna Paramhans was passing by a river with his disciples. He told them to observe the activity of the fishes caught in the net of the fisherman who was on the river bank.

The disciples observed that there were three kinds of fishes in the net. The first kind was passive and did not make any attempt to jump out of the net. The second kind tried but could not escape. The third kind was successful in escaping and swam

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away joyfully upon getting freedom.

Ramkrishna Paramhans then explained the similarities between human beings and the fishes. The first kind of human beings has accepted the bondage of the soul and is making no attempt to free the soul from the cycle of birth and death. The second kind wants salvation but its attempts are unsuccessful due to lack of proper knowledge. The third kind applies its knowledge skilfully and succeeds in attaining salvation.

MORAL : If you want real freedom, then be the third kind of human being.

37. Preparation For The Eternal Journey

A village boy was given good education by his parents. He got a good job and became wealthy. He was aware that his parents had faced many difficulties and made many sacrifices for him. He wished to take his parents on a tour of America and



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Europe.

The parents enjoyed the facilities provided on the tour as well as the sights of the modern world. When they returned to India, they discussed about the goodness of their son and were impressed that he had received so much respect wherever he went. They were feeling proud and happy that he was so famous.

The son overheard them and smiled at their naivety. He explained that he was not famous. They had not received the facilities for free. He had already paid in advance to the travel company for the arrangements.

MORAL : Remember that we all have to go on the eternal journey one day. Are we paying in advance (doing noble deeds in our lifetime) to ensure that our eternal journey is an enjoyable one?

38. I Am Only A Visitor

An American who had heard and read a lot about India, decided to visit it. Here, he met a well-known scholar. He was surprised to see that the

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scholar lived in an ordinary house. He asked the scholar, "Where is the furniture?" The scholar retorted, "First show me your furniture."



The American said, "It is surprising that a scholar like you is asking such a stupid question. You know I am just a visitor here. I am not going to stay here. Why would I need any furniture here?"

The scholar laughed, "I am also just a visitor on Earth. So, why waste my precious life in gathering furniture and useless material things."

MORAL : The biggest dilemma of this world is that man knows that death is inevitable, yet he gets greedy accumulating material things as if he is going to live here forever.

39. Quality Matters, Not Quantity

A fifteen-year old girl had just started seeing colourful dreams about her future. Fate spilled black colour over her dreams. Both her kidneys failed. Her

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mother donated a kidney and gave her new life. In the midst of all the pain and difficulties, the girl remained positive and cheerful. She did not utter a single word of complaint.



Unfortunately, after a decade, the donated kidney also failed. She was hospitalised for twenty-two days. During her stay, she came across many poor patients who could not afford to have dialysis done. She could not see their misery and decided to help them. She was a very good *Bharat Natyam* dancer and regardless of her own pain and weak health, she decided to do a dance show in order to collect funds.

This brave and compassionate girl was at such a stage where she had to get dialysis done thrice a day and in such condition she collected eighty lakh rupees for the poor patients. She gave a new life to many people and herself passed away on August 3, 2015. She kept smiling till her last breath.

The name of this courageous Gujarati girl is

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Niketa Ghiya.

MORAL : How you live is more important than how much you live. Measure your life in terms of quality and not quantity.

40. Contact and Connection

It was the year 1990. A monk of the Ramkrishna Mission was on a flight from Delhi. A journalist of Chile was also travelling with him to take his interview. Here is an excerpt of their conversation.

Journalist : "Sir, in your last lecture you talked about 'Jogajog' and 'Sanjog'. Can you explain a bit more ?"

Monk (smiling and deviating from the question) : "Are you from Chile ? Who all are there at home ?"

The journalist thought the monk was trying to avoid his question.

Journalist : "Mother has expired, Father is there. My three brothers and one sister are all married."

Monk : "Do you talk to your father ?"



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Now the Journalist was visibly impatient.

Monk : "When did you talk to him last ?"

Journalist (suppressing his impatience) : "Maybe a month back."

Monk : "Do you meet your brothers and sister often and when did you last meet as a family together?"

At this point the journalist got flustered. It seemed as if the monk was taking the interview of the journalist.

Journalist (sighing) : "We last met on Christmas two years back."

Monk : "How many days did you stay together ?"

Journalist (wiping his sweat) : "Three days."

Monk : "How much time did you spend with your father, sitting beside him ?"

The journalist was perplexed and embarrassed.

Monk : "Did you have breakfast or lunch or dinner together? Did you ask how he was ? Did you ask how his days are passing after your mother's death?"

The monk was still cool and with a smile on his face placed his hand on the journalist's hand.

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Monk : "Don't be embarrassed or upset or sad. I am sorry if I have hurt you unknowingly. But this is basically your answer to 'Jogajog' (contact) and 'Sanjog' (connection). You have contact with your father but you don't have a connection with him. Connection is heart to heart... sitting together , sharing, caring, hugging each other, shaking hands, eye contact, sharing food from the same plate, spending time together, talking about deeper emotions. You all brothers and sisters have contact but there is no connection with each other."

Monk : "This is the reality of the present world. At home, in society and everywhere, everybody has lots and lots of contacts but there is no connection...no communication...everybody is in a virtual world. In our childhood when we travelled in a train, bus or flight, everyone



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travel by train or by flight , I just enter into a cemetery. No one talks to anyone. All are busy with a phone or laptop. Everybody is in contact with the whole world but no one knows their co-passengers. It's like a cemetery of the 'living dead' ."

MORAL : Develop connection, not just contact.

41. Be Grateful And Humble

There are many stories in the Mahabharata, some which may not be mentioned in the original. But many of them are very interesting and provide deep insight. This is one such story.

While the battle of Kurukshetra was at its peak, Arjuna and Karna were fighting each other. It was a battle to witness, a flurry of arrows were being exchanged, and even Gods were witnessing this epic battle between the two warriors. Arjuna would shoot his arrows and the impact of these arrows would be so much that Karna's chariot would go back by 25-30 feet. People who



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witnessed this were amazed by the skills of Arjuna. Karna was no less. When he shot arrows, Arjuna's chariot would also shake and go back by 3-4 feet.

More than everyone, Krishna would applaud Karna every time his arrow hit Arjuna's chariot. But not once did he applaud Arjuna's skills. At the end of the day, Arjuna asked Krishna, "Oh Lord, I have shot so many arrows at Karna's chariot, it was being displaced like a feather in wind, but not once did you appreciate me. Rather, you would appreciate his skill despite his arrows just displacing my chariot a little."



Krishna smiled and replied "Oh, Arjuna, remember, your chariot is protected by Hanuman at the top on your flag, me as your charioteer in the front and by Sheshnag at its wheels, yet the whole chariot would still sway and displace whenever the valiant Karna hit us with his arrows. But Karna's chariot is not protected by any such force, he is on his own, yet he fights valiantly."

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It is said that after the battle of Kurukshetra was over, Krishna refused to get off the chariot till Arjuna got down. Once Krishna alighted from the chariot, it caught fire and turned to dust. Krishna said "Oh Arjuna, your chariot was destroyed by Karna a long time ago, it is I who was still protecting it."

"Never in your life have the arrogance to say that you have achieved something. If you have achieved something, it is the divine will, it is the divine intervention that has always protected you, cleared your path and given you the right opportunities at the right time".

MORAL : This excerpt from Mahabharata conveys a message to mankind. Though simple but a strong reminder to mankind that whatever he achieves is because of the blessings of God and Guru.

42. I Asked God

I asked God, "How to handle life?"

God Replied, "Check Your Room."

My room gave me all the answers :

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Roof said : "Aim high."

Fan said : "Be cool."

Calendar said : "Be up to date."

Wallet said : "Save now for the future."

Mirror said : "Always observe yourself."

Lamp said : "Light up others' life."

Wall said : "Share others' load."

Window said : "Expand your vision."

Floor said : "Always be down to earth."

Stairs said : "Watch each step you take."

And I said, "Thank You God !"

MORAL : Look around, the answers to all your questions are here if you look with an open mind.

43. Accept Your Mistake

Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay was a frank and non-hypocritical person. If anyone opposed his view, he would listen calmly and if anyone pointed out his mistake, he would accept and correct it.

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Some people see this as a negative trait instead of a positive one. They consider it as a loss of self-respect to own up to one's mistake and accept one's opponent's view.



A friend of Bankimchandra tried to explain this to him. However, Bankimchandra said that they were not perfect beings and it was natural that they would make mistakes. So, one should accept one's mistake upon realisation.

MORAL OF THE STORY : Words of apology like 'Sorry' and '**Michhami Dukkadam**' are given to us by the wise. There is mention in the religious scriptures of *Gandhar Bhagwan Shree Gautam Swami* apologising to a Jain householder. Then why should we feel small in accepting our mistake?

44. Loving Words

Leo Tolstoy, the famous Russian writer, went out for a stroll in the evening. His eyes fell upon a

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beggar clad in tattered clothes, shivering in the cold. Leo Tolstoy at once put his hand in his pocket but felt dejected that his pockets were empty. He sought the beggar's forgiveness that he was unable to give him anything. The beggar said that mostly people threw coins before him with a feeling of disgust and arrogance. This was the first time that someone had given him such loving words.

MORAL : The value of loving words is far more than money.

45. Treat Your Employees Well

Every month a factory owner gave his 125 workers a party on pay day. He gave a thousand rupees to the workers to fetch the ingredients and two female workers would prepare the semolina sweet which the workers would relish after lunch. The owner reaped several benefits. The workers became intimate and friendly with the management, more sincere in their work and



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the environment in the factory became happy and friendly. This helped to increase the productivity.

The owner was inspired to do so after hearing a discourse of Acharya Bhagwant Shree Ratnasundersurijee in which he preached that an employer should visit his employees' house at least once a year bearing sweets for his family. The factory owner thought of this option when it seemed impossible to visit 125 houses.

MORAL : It is the duty of every employer to look after his employees and keep them happy.

46. The Finest Example of Karma

Once upon a time a king called three of his ministers and told each of them to fetch a sackful of ripe and juicy fruits from the royal garden to give to the needy.

The first minister thought that the king was just interested in seeing a full sack and wouldn't bother to see the contents in it so he filled it with



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whatever rubbish he could find.

The second minister too thought along the same line as the first. He thought why bother to pick fruits from the tree when the king was not going to consume them but just distribute them among the needy. So, he picked rotten fruits fallen on the ground and filled them in his sack.

The third minister did as told by the king. With great effort he selected the best of fruits and filled his sack with it. On reaching the court, the king ordered the three ministers to be locked in three different rooms with their respective sacks for a month. He told that they wouldn't be given any food for a month and would have to survive on the fruits which they had collected for the needy.



MORAL : Here the king symbolises God and the ministers symbolise the people who have been sent to this Earth (the garden) to collect the fruits of their *Karma*. We decide what kind of fruits we are going

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to collect as we ourselves will have to bear the fruits we collect.

47. Phoolvardhee Parshwanath

A Jain householder named Paras lived in Phalodi, Rajasthan. Once he saw a heap of flowers outside the village and surprisingly the flowers were still fresh and full of fragrance.

He informed *Acharya Bhagwant Shree Vaadidev-suri* about this. *Acharyashree* concluded that there must an idol of God buried in that spot.



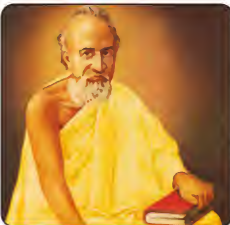
He was right. An idol of Lord Parshwanath was excavated from that spot. A heavenly being told Paras in his dream that every grain of rice offered to Lord Parshwanath would change into a gold coin and he should use this wealth to construct a Jain temple. Paras followed the instructions and on an auspicious day the idol was placed in the sanctum of the temple. This idol of Lord Parshwanath is worshipped as "*Phoolvardhee*

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Parshwanath" by millions of devotees.

48. Abstain From Non-Vegetarian Food

Abhaykumar Oswal was an industrialist of Punjab. He was a devotee of Jain monk *Acharya Bhagwant Shree Vallabhsuri*. A company named Mumbai Petrochemicals was taken over by Abhaykumar. He ordered that non-vegetarian food, including eggs and fish, should not be cooked in the kitchen of the company. The labourers went on strike and the matter was taken to court. Abhaykumar argued that vegetarian diet is a complete one and that the company could not be forced to serve non-vegetarian food. The verdict was in his favour. The company was started again and it also made a handsome profit under Abhaykumar.



MORAL : Do not eat or serve non-vegetarian food.

49. Work For The Betterment Of Society

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More than 200 years ago the evil practice of slavery was prevalent all over the world.

It was the year 1785. A teacher of Cambridge School gave the students an essay to write on "For or Against Slavery". Thomas Clarkson got the highest score. However, he was not concerned with it. He passionately felt he should do something to abolish slavery.

He had his essay published in newspapers. He sent its copies to the reformers, thinkers and affluent people of the society and asked for their opinion. He got a good response. He established an organisation to abolish slavery and after 22 years of hard work, he succeeded. The British Parliament and later, the government of all countries passed an act to abolish slavery.



MORAL : Work consistently and tirelessly to remove the social evils and create the world of your dreams.

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50. Does God Really Take Away Our Happiness ?

A child was happily playing with a variety of toys which his father had got for him and the sight gladdened his father. Suddenly his father saw a broken glass toy and was worried that the child might injure himself. So, he took away the broken toy. Seeing his toy being taken away, the boy started crying bitterly. His father tried to explain to him the reason for doing so but all in vain. Father tried to please the boy by getting two new attractive toys for him but the child's mind was fixed on the toy which he could not get. The new toys could not distract him.

MORAL : God also gives us a variety of toys in form of different people and things. Often a toy quite dear to us is taken away. This is done for a purpose, but we don't understand and keep on crying and complaining about our loss, even though he compensates us with a new, more attractive toy.

51. Greed Leads To Downfall

Once a crow saw a carcass floating in a river. He

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pecked at the carcass and satisfied his appetite. He quenched his thirst with the sweet river water. The crow remained perched on the carcass. He thought that it was the best place to be because he could get everything that he needed and also enjoy the beautiful sights on the river bank as the carcass floated ahead. The river eventually flowed into the sea. The crow could not see the shore anymore. He could not quench his thirst because the sea water was salty. He realised that he had reached here only because of his greed. He flew in an attempt to reach the shore but the distance was too long. He fell into the sea due to exhaustion and drowned.



MORAL : Life is flowing ahead like a river and we are like the crow, engrossed in the pleasures of our five senses. Life will end and we shall realise too late that we failed to escape.



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52. Make Others Happy

Pooja Patel, a resident of Jaipur, Rajasthan, had a mentally challenged son. When a team of medical experts diagnosed that her son would never be able to speak, walk or understand, Pooja broke down completely. She felt it was useless to live. She locked herself in her room and started preparing to kill herself and her son. Dr. S.J. Sitaraman, who had been treating her son, had guessed Pooja's intention and he called her requesting her to meet him one last time. When she came, the doctor took her son and said that he would adopt her son and free her from her son's responsibility. The doctor also reminded her about the teachings of *Shreemad Bhagwad Gita*. He said that Pooja had got a mentally challenged son due to her past birth deeds from which she could not escape. Pooja was sorry and resolved to bring up her son with utmost love and care.



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In 2012, Pooja and her husband, Suresh joined an organisation in Rajkot, Gujarat for mentally challenged children called 'Prayas Parents Association' where they are looking after more than 100 children.

MORAL : If we understand the value and meaning of life, then in the time between our birth and death, we can make several lives happy and meaningful.

53. God Is Behind Your Success

One night the different parts of a lantern were chatting with each other. The flame said, "There is light only because of me. I often think if I were not there who would destroy the darkness." The wick interrupted her, "Stop boasting. Don't forget your existence is totally dependent upon me. There is light because of me and not you." The glass boasted, "Both of you are powerless against the wind. If I were not there to protect you, then the wind would destroy your existence in



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a moment's time.”

Suddenly the light went out. The flame, the wick and the glass wondered why there was darkness in spite of all of them being present. Then realization struck. Oil in the lantern had got over. They smiled at one another sheepishly. Oil was the main factor which produced the light and the three of them were just mediums for emitting the light.

MORAL : We must remember that God is the reason of our success and achievements.

54. Do Not Be A Pauper In Charity

The father of the great poet Maagh was an astrologer and he became worried when he studied Maagh's horoscope and learned that Maagh's latter life would be spent in poverty. To provide financial security to Maagh, he filled 36000 jars with precious gems and put them in the basement of the house. Now even if Maagh used up one jar daily, he would not face shortage of money for hundred years. Maagh received the best of education and was later married to a virtuous and loyal lady named

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Manorama.

The couple was very compassionate and generous. The poor and needy flocked to their house as the word spread that they gave with an open heart and free hand. It was no wonder then that Maagh's coffers became empty. He had to sell his mansion and he donated its sale proceeds too.

It is said that wealth makes the mind restless and anxious whereas knowledge makes it calm and composed. Likewise, the couple lived a meagre but contented life in their humble cottage.



Upon Manorama's advice, Maagh composed an extraordinary work of poetry. Manorama presented one of its verses to King Bhoj of Dhaaranagari. He was immensely impressed by the eloquence and depth of thought. He rewarded 1,25,000 gold coins to Manorama and sent her home with honour in a palanquin. True to her nature, Manorama had donated all the coins before she

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reached home.

MORAL : Use a portion of your income daily to help someone in need.

55. Greatness Lies In Generosity

Once, some members of Champaner Jain Congregation came to Hadaala village. Khemashah Sheth was the richest man of the village. Khemashah invited the Congregation for lunch. The Congregation was impressed that Khemashah did not spend much on himself but spent generously on others. His hospitality was warm and opulent. He also did not have the airs or arrogance of a wealthy man.



After lunch, in the course of discussion, Khemashah learnt that the Congregation was travelling to collect funds to help the drought-affected people of Gujarat. He requested that they should end their tour right there and allow him to

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give the deficit amount. He took the responsibility of providing the entire year's grain supply. Khemashah was happy that he was able to use his wealth for removing someone's misery.

MORAL : Some people are more fortunate than others. But only a few realise that the fortune is given to them as a gift to help others.

56. Opportunity Well Used

A King, a Brahmin and a Merchant were childhood friends. One day, the King told his friends that he wanted to give them a memento of their friendship. He said that on coming Monday, the Brahmin would be the acting king from sunrise to sunset and the same for the Merchant on Tuesday. They would enjoy total authority and their decisions would be enacted as law.

On Monday, the pleasure-seeking Brahmin whiled away the given time in eating, sleeping and enjoying himself. However, the next day, the



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Merchant took his temporary position very seriously. He took many important decisions regarding public welfare such as road repairs, giving donations to the needy and providing better amenities like rest house, meal house and educational institute. He sanctioned loans and trade licenses to deserving applicants. He also went to pay obeisance to the Jain ascetics dwelling in the city monastery and listened to a religious discourse.

Once he had done whatever he had planned to do as the acting king, he refused to sit on the throne even though the time allotted to him was not yet over. He showed sincere devotion towards his duty and a remarkable detachment from material pleasures.

The King was impressed and appointed the Merchant as his Prime Minister. The Brahmin was appointed as the royal priest so that the three friends could be together for lifetime.



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MORAL : Make good use of the golden opportunity given to you.

57. We Must Take Care Of Those Who Care For Us

An old man while going for a morning walk with his pet dog met with a fatal accident. After death they reached Heaven. The Heaven's gate, made of gold and studded with diamonds and pearls, greatly surprised the old man.

The old man requested the gate keeper for some water to quench his thirst. The gate keeper told him that he could go to the cooler kept inside the gate to quench his thirst but the dog would have to remain behind. The old man stubbornly refused to do so saying that the dog was his all time companion and was dearer to him than his children who had abandoned him.

The gate keeper told him that then he would have to refuse entry to him also. The old man said without his dog the pleasures of Heaven would also



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feel like Hell and he started to walk away. At that moment the gatekeeper revealed that actually he was the King of Heaven and he had been testing the old man's integrity. He said that many selfish men were ready to leave behind their friends and companions to gain entry into Heaven but he had not done so. He welcomed the old man into Heaven along with his dog.

MORAL : People who are selfish enough to leave behind their companion to gain entry into Heaven are never able to gain entry into Heaven.

58. Acharya Shree Kailashaagarsuri

Acharya Shree Kailashaagarsuri was a great Jain ascetic of pre-Independence era. He inspired the construction of the Jain pilgrimage centre at Mehsana, Gujarat. His ascetic life was exemplary and his character was pure.

As a child, he showed the glimpses of the great personality he would become in future. His worldly name was Kashiram. He was not talkative and had very few friends. One day, his friends made a plan to

go and see a movie in the nearby town which was far from his village and one had to go there by train. In those days, there were few cinema halls and one didn't easily get to see a movie.

Kashiram and his friends were walking to the station. Suddenly, Kashiram stopped in his tracks because he heard somebody crying for help. Kashiram's friends did not want to miss the rare chance they had got to see the movie. They advised Kashiram not to be naive and to go along with them but Kashiram's heart wrenched with pain and he set off in the direction of the sound.



Kashiram found a physically challenged man lying in a pit and his crutch lay broken. The village was too far to fetch help. So, he ran to the railway station and rented a bicycle. He brought the man out and took him to a clinic on his bicycle. He had the crutch repaired by a carpenter. The man was touched to see Kashiram's kindness towards a stranger. He blessed Kashiram

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that he would become a great and famous person one day.

This is just one of the innumerable benevolent deeds that *Acharyashree* has done in his lifetime. He believed that the immeasurable and incomparable happiness and contentment that is derived from humanitarian work is to be experienced rather than described.

MORAL : *Acharyashree*'s character and deeds are a beacon for hedonistic people who seek only pleasure and believe it is to be found in materialistic acquisitions.

59. The Kalyug Era

Once Bhim, Arjun, Nakul and Sahadev – four of the Pandavas, asked Shree Krishna to describe the *Kalyug* Era. Shree Krishna shot an arrow in each of the four directions and told the brothers to follow the arrows.

Arjun saw a strange sight. A cuckoo was singing very sweetly and melodiously but simultaneously she was consuming the flesh of a live rabbit who was moaning with pain. Bhim saw four wells

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overflowing with water and a fifth well, at the centre of these wells, was absolutely dry.

The sights which Nakul and Sahadev came upon were also out of the ordinary. Nakul saw a cow giving birth to a calf. The cow then started licking the dirt off the calf's body. However, the cow went on licking even after the calf had become clean. Due to this, the calf's delicate skin got abraded and the calf started bleeding. Surprisingly, the cow licked the blood too.



Sahadev saw a big rock rolling down a mountain, destroying anything that came in its way. However, the rock stopped when a small bush came in its way.

They told Shree Krishna about what they had seen and he told them that the incidents were symbolic of the circumstances of the *Kalyug* Era. The ascetics will speak sweetly like the cuckoo and under the pretext of solving the problems of their rabbit-like innocent followers, they will exploit their

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followers. Like the over-flowing wells, in the *Kalyug* Era, all the wealth will be concentrated in the hands of a few people and they will not at all help the needy people who are symbolised by the dry well. The parents will pamper their children, making them weak which will result in their downfall. Like the falling rock, the character of human beings will continue to degrade and this degradation will be prevented only if human beings will surrender to God.

MORAL : We all are experiencing the effects of *Kalyug* Era. For our welfare, we must surrender to God.

60. Common Sense Is Not So Common

On account of remaining desolated for many years, bats had made their dwelling in the Jain temple of Ranakpur. The renovation work of the temple had been undertaken. Kasturbhai Sheth sought the advice of 'Shaasan Samrat' Nemisuri Maharaj Saaheb and upon his advice, for six months, drums were played in the temple due to

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which all the bats left the temple. Nemisuri Maharaj Saaheb had not received western education but by his common sense, experience and wisdom he solved the problem.



In another instant, an uneducated villager solved a similar problem by his common sense. The pigeons were causing a lot of disturbance daily in the Ashok Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi. The villager suggested the idea of fixing a grill to prevent the entry of the birds and it worked.

MORAL : Experience is far more valuable than bookish knowledge. Experience sharpens a person's wit and common sense.

61. Reward Of Noble Deed

Gunsaar Shreshthi was a Jain householder who did not let a single day pass without offering meals to Jain ascetics. It so happened that his financial position started deteriorating. His wife was

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sure that her father would help and he gave in to his wife's urging even though he had never spread his hands before anyone in his life.

On the way to his in-laws' house, he met a Jain ascetic and he was delighted that the monk accepted his offered meal. Finally, he reached his destination. However, he left his in-laws' house the very next morning without asking for financial help because he was treated very coldly.

On his return journey, he collected coloured stones lying on the river bank, thinking that he would try to sell them. Upon reaching home, he gave the bundle to his wife. To her delight, she found precious stones inside the bundle. Gunsaar narrated whatever had happened.

They both understood that the gems were a reward for the noble deed of offering meal to the monk.

MORAL : Keep firm and steady faith in religion and



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outcome of good deeds.

62. Selfless Benevolence

Gunsaagar Shreshthi, a Jain householder gave capital to his three sons to help them start their own business. He also told them that he had an invaluable precious gem which he would give to his most deserving son.

The eldest and the second sons were greedy and pretentious. The eldest son rescued a drowning child but his father recognised his intention. He advised his son that benevolent deeds should not be done for winning praise or reward.

The second son returned the extra money that a client had paid by mistake, wanting to impress his father with his honesty. But his father was not fooled. He reprimanded his son for his carelessness.

The youngest son was unlike his elder brothers. He was regularly going to help a family which was miserable



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because the head of the family was an alcoholic and a gambler. One day, the gambler stabbed him with a knife in a fit of temper. However, he bailed the culprit out of jail. The gambler turned over a new leaf because of his truly forgiving and benevolent nature. Gunsaagar thought his youngest son rightly deserved the precious gem.

MORAL : Selfless benevolence is like the radiance of a precious gem whereas greed is like a destructive spark of fire.

63. The Radiance Of Truth and Principle

Once, the Emperor of Delhi announced in his court that he wished to meet a person who was totally honest and principled. The Empress recalled that her friend, Kalavati had said that her husband, Dharamdas was very honest and principled. So, she invited both of them to the palace.

The Emperor asked three questions to Dharamdas. The first one was how many children he had and Dharamdas replied he had four but only in times of trouble he would know how many of them

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were truly his.

The second question was how much wealth he possessed to which he replied that he considered only the money that he spent in philanthropic work as his actual wealth, because only that money would save his soul.

The third question was regarding his age. Dharamdas replied that his biological age was sixty but he counted his age as twelve years because he had started practising his religion only since last twelve years. The impressed Emperor bestowed upon him the title of 'Nagar Sheth'.

MORAL : When the sun of religion arises in a person's life, his personality glows with the radiance of truth and principles.

64. The Value Of Tears

Principal Ramdas was retiring. At his farewell party, his students surrounded him. He had not only succeeded in making his college a temple of



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knowledge but had also won the love and respect of everyone. His students were curious to know why he had never been angry with them. Even when they made mistakes he behaved lovingly with them.



Principal Ramadas narrated an incident that had occurred when he was in the fourth grade. His father had been a teacher in his school. One day, he had seen his father crying bitterly. The Principal of the school had reprimanded his father harshly for no fault of his. Ramdas felt that harsh words hurt a person so much. Then and there, he resolved that he would become a Principal to teach the world that all humans are bound to make mistakes and mistakes should be pointed out lovingly.

MORAL : One must not use one's tongue like a sharp knife because it cuts another person's heart.

65. Help The Fallen To Rise

The current market situation is such that

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business is slack, businessmen are in debt and companies are laying off employees.

A businessman of Surat owed a large amount of money to the young Head of a big Jain Congregation. However, the Head not only forgave the debt but also paid the expenses of the bypass surgery of his debtor. He prefers to remain anonymous because he wants neither fame nor praise.



A company decided to lay-off twenty out of its hundred employees. The remaining eighty showed remarkable unity and compassion. They proposed to the management not to lay off and that they would give their wages partly to the twenty workers.

The story of Maneklal Chunilal Sheth is one of rags to riches. If a merchant in his hometown had not given him money for ticket fare to Mumbai, then probably his fate wouldn't have changed. He repaid the merchant ten thousand times over out of

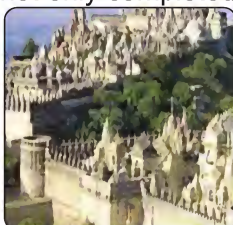
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gratitude. He also exemplified the saying 'One Good Turn Deserves Another'. A man, who needed money to clear his debt in stock market, tried to steal the idol made of precious stones from Maneklalji's home temple. Maneklalji caught him red-handed. After hearing his story, he gave him the required amount and let him go free.

MORAL : Help the people who have fallen to rise. This will create a united and healthy society.

66. How To Do Your Pilgrimage ?

A Jain girl Kinjal, who was in her twenties, decided to do '*Navannu Yatra*' of the Shatrunjay Hill in the Jain pilgrimage centre Palitana, Gujarat. The Yatra, which consists of ascending the hill 108 times, is an arduous task. She not only completed the feat in consecutive 108 days but also observed total fast for 70 days. As the news spread, the Jain ascetics and devotees in Palitana were awestruck and there was jubilation all around



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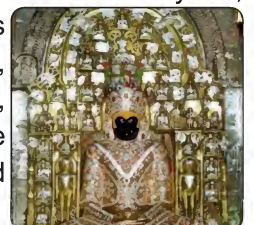
when she completed the Yatra.

MORAL : Kinjal makes us introspect the way we do our pilgrimage. Are we among those who desecrate the holiness of Palitana by consuming meals after sunset and consuming food from roadside stalls and restaurants in Palitana ? Shatrunjay is the gateway to heaven but by our wrongdoings we make it the gateway to hell.

67. Power Of Faith And Devotion

Faith and devotion towards God, *Guru* and parents can make impossible things possible.

A Jain devotee named Sunil got the privilege to do the first *Pooja* of the Lord in the pilgrimage centre called Kesariyaji. His silent heartfelt prayer to the Lord, to give him this privilege, fructified. Everyone, including the numerous billionaires present there, surprisingly did not bid. Sunil, the only bidder, got the privilege for a mere one rupee and twenty-five paise.



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A young devout follower of Jain *Acharya Poojyashree* Yashovarmasurijee, foregave a big amount of nine lakh rupees which he had lent to his sister because she refused to attend the auspicious occasion of welcoming *Poojyashree* when he arrived at their native town unless the debt was forgiven.

A devout son, who had won accolades and fame for his invention, started studying the Jain scriptures from *Panyaas Bhadrakarvijay Maharaj Saaheb* as per his mother's wish. The study instilled so much faith and devotion towards the Lord that he composed a hymn titled '*Arihant Vandana*' in praise of Lord. The name of this composer is Shree Chandulal Saakarchand Shah.

MORAL : Faith and devotion can make a person do incredible deeds. Give entry to your God, Guru and parents into your heart.



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 - 57) Ashok Kochar, Rajnand Gao, Chhatishgad.